

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 AGRE-00 /072 W
-----261846Z 059405 /50

R 261655Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1551
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 4178

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PSD AND CDS INSIST ON OVERALL
AGREEMENT

REF: LISBON 4103 (DTG 231716Z MAY 77)

SUMMARY: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND CENTER DEMOCRATS SIGNED
AN AGREEMENT MAY 25 ADVOCATING "CONVERGENCE OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTIES" AND REJECTING CASE-BY-CASE
UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOCIALISTS. THE PS GOVERNMENT
HAS REJECTED ANY CHANGE IN ITS GO-IT-ALONE POLICY. A
REFUSAL BY THE PSD AND CDS TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT ON
KEY PROPOSALS PENDING IN ASSEMBLY COULD CREATE A
LEGISLATIVE IMPASSE. THE PRESIDENT WHOSE APRIL 25
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SPEECH MAY HAVE KICKED THE PROCESS OFF COULD BE FORCED TO
ACT TO INSURE THE PASSAGE OF ESSENTIAL LEGISLATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PARTY SUMMIT: THE PSD AND CDS DECIDED IN A 5-HOUR
MEETING MAY 25 TO REFUSE CASE-BY-CASE AGREEMENTS WITH
THE SOCIALIST PARTY. THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE
MEETING MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- STRESS ON CONVERGENCE: "THE PSD AND CDS MAINTAIN THEIR INDIVIDUAL PARTY PROGRAMS BUT UNDERScore THEIR CONVERGENT VIEWS."
-- REJECT CASE-BY-CASE AGREEMENTS: THE PS FORMULA FOR MAINTAINING A MINORITY GOVERNMENT BASED ON CASE-BY-CASE AGREEMENTS IS "ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE."
-- RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT: THE PSD-CDS DECISION WAS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT EANES'S APRIL 25 SPEECH AND GROWING INEFFICIENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT.
-- NEXT MEETING: THE NEXT PSD-CDS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1.

2. PARTIES REACT: PSD PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO AND CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL COMMENTED ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AT A MAY 25 PRESS CONFERENCE. THE PS, WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD REJECTED THE PROPOSAL FOR SUMMIT MEETINGS ALSO COMMENT:
(A) SA CARNEIRO SAID:
-- NO MORE TEMPORARY ALLIANCES. THERE WILL BE A DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE AND A STABLE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY, OR NO ALLIANCES OF CONVENIENCE ARE POSSIBLE."
-- PRESIDENT NOT CONSULTED: PRESIDENT EANES WAS NOT CONSULTED ON THE PSD-CDS SUMMIT MEETING.
-- PS MUST CHOOSE: THE GOVERNMENT WILL BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY IF IT "BECOMES DEPENDENT ON COMMUNIST VOTES."
(B) FREITAS DO AMARAL SAID:
-- NO TEMPORARY AGREEMENTS: "DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE PRESUMES PERMANENCE, ORGANIZATION, AND CONSISTENCY; IT IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH FLUCTUATING TACTICS OR CASE-BY-CONFIDENTIAL

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CASE MAJORITIES OBTAINED THROUGH TEMPORARY AGREEMENTS."
-- ELECTIONS POSSIBLE: IF THE PS REFUSES TO COLLABORATE, IT MUST FACE THE CONSEQUENCE OF EARLY ELECTIONS."
(C) PS SECRETARIAT MEMBER MANUEL ALEGRE TOLD THE PRESS:
-- PS ALONE: THE PS WILL GOVERN ALONE BECAUSE OF ITS ELECTION PROMISES AND BECAUSE THAT FORMULA MAINTAINS AN EQUILIBRIUM AMONG SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FORCES.
-- PS DOES NOT EXCLUDE PCP: "THE PS GIVES NO SPECIAL TREATMENT TO ANY PARTY BUT WILL NOT EXCOMMUNICATE SELECTED PARTIES. WE OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO EXCLUDE THE PCP FROM NATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE."
THE PS LEADERSHIP IS PUZZLED BY THE LATEST SA CARNEIRO GAMBIT. BOTH LABOR MINISTER MALDONADO AND AGRICULTURE STATE SECRETARY PORTAS HAVE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO BY THE PSD AT THE WORKING LEVEL. SOCIALISTS ARE UNSURE OF THE IMPLICATION OF THE LATEST PSD-CDS ACTION.

3. TROUBLE IN THE ALENTEJO: FORTY PERSONS WERE INJURED
MAY 25 WHEN THE POLICE INTERVENED TO RESTORE OCCUPIED
RESERVED LANDS TO THE OWNERS. ONE THOUSAND WORKERS FROM
THE COMMUNIST RURAL UNION RESISTED THE LAND TURNOVER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 4178

4. UNIVERSITY SITUATION EASES: A LISBON UNIVERSITY
PLENARY MEETING VOTED MAY 25 FOR A THREE-DAY STRIKE IN
SUPPORT OF FELLOW STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY AT COIMBRA.
THE LIMITATION OF THE STRIKE TO A FEW DAYS AND THE PRIOR
VOTE BY EIGHT LISBON FACULTIES NOT TO JOIN A STRIKE
CALL ARE INDICATIONS THAT RADICAL STUDENTS ARE HAVING
TROUBLE HOLDING THE LINE. A MAY 25 PLENARY MEETING
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OPORTO WAS UNABLE TO DRAW A QUORUM
TO VOTE ON A STRIKE MOTION.

5. COMMENT: SCHEDULING OF THE NEXT PSD-CDS MEETING
SO SOON AFTER THE FIRST INDICATES THAT THE TWO PARTIES
INTEND TO PRESS FOR A QUICK RESPONSE. WITH KEY
LEGISLATION ON LABOR, AGRARIAN REFORM, AND THE ECONOMY
AWAITING ASSEMBLY APPROVAL, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND
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CENTER DEMOCRATS BELIEVE THEY HAVE ENOUGH LVERAGE
TO FORCE AN ACCOMMODATION. THE SUBSTANCE OF GOVERNMENT
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND THE VIEWS OF THE PS
LEADERSHIP VIRTUALLY RULE OUT THE COMMUNISTS AS AN
ALTERNATE SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PS LEGISLATIVE
PROGRAM. THE PSD AND CDS ARE HOLDING GOOD CARDS, BUT
TH PS IS NOT DISPOSED TO MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS.
NONETHELESS, SOME MOVEMENT FROM THE HARD POSITION TAKEN
INITIALLY BY BOTH SIDES IS LIKELY. THE PRESIDENT WHOSE
APRIL 25 SPEECH MAY HAVE KICKED THE PROCESS OFF COULD BE
FORCED TO ACT TO INSURE THE PASSAGE OF ESSENTIAL
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